

Section 1. General Information

The parish of Old Felixstowe is located to the East of the town.

The estimated population¹ of Felixstowe in 2017 was 24,500; since that time there has been considerable increases in housing, which is planned to continue well into the future.

There are two Churches within the Parish of Old Felixstowe (the other being St Andrews) together with a Chapel (St Nicholas – situated at Felixstowe Ferry).

The average congregation size at the 9.30 a.m. principal Sunday service (prior to national restrictions) is around 100. This service alternated between St Andrews and St Peter & St Paul. A weekly 8 a.m. service of BCP Holy Communion at St Peter & Paul has a regular congregation of around 20.

An evening service is held each week, in the warmer months this is held at St Nicholas Chapel; this service attracts an ecumenical congregation of 20 to 40 people. In the colder months this service is held in The Link (part of St Peter & Paul) with the congregation being around 15 to 20.

Relationships between the members of the different congregations are warm and supportive.

The pattern of worship (when restrictions are not in place) is arranged on a monthly cycle, services at St Peter & Paul are currently:

- 8am BCP Holy Communion – each week
- 10am service on 1st 3rd and 5th Sundays in a month.
- 6:30pm Evening Service – each week during winter months. Held in 'The Link' during winter months, otherwise this service is in St Nicholas.

We have a good and developing relationship with Two Primary Schools. Both are in easy walking distance of the church. We have no church hall, this was gifted to the civil parish some years ago and is now a community centre (for which the church has exclusive use on Sundays if it chooses). The 'Link' is relatively recent extension to the church, used for a variety of meetings and local groups.

The last Quinquennial Inspection Review (QIR) was in 2019 and we actively proceed with the priorities highlighted by this as funds become available. We also apply for grants for the larger pieces of restoration and renovation.

¹ Source: [People in Felixstowe \(eastsuffolk.gov.uk\)](http://eastsuffolk.gov.uk)



Section 2. The need

With the introduction of a projection system and our ability to stream live services, we need to update our sound system. The existing speakers, while relatively small in size, are now proving difficult with the use of microphones.

The need is to provide a good source of sound for speech and music, that is configured specifically to avoid interference with sound being produced. This necessitates the speakers ideally being at the front of the existing dais.

The new speakers need to be positioned in such a way that they do not intrude with existing wall mounted monuments, we must also avoid any possibility that the speakers cast a shadow onto the projection screen, which when in use is within the chancel arch.

The existing speakers are not produced any longer, and we need to replace them with speakers in a configuration that is in keeping with the aesthetics of the building.

Section 3. The proposal

We propose to install four speakers suspended from the centre of nave / transept crossing. The height of these will be such to be unobtrusive to worship, while being able to project sound effectively to the rear pews of the nave and transepts.

All six existing speakers, mounted on the walls, would be removed.

There would be four new suspended speakers, mounted above the front edge of the dais (approximate position indicated as white rectangles on this image).

Two speakers would face the rear of the nave, the other two speakers (hidden behind the two shown) would face into the centre of the North and South transepts, respectively.

The speakers would be suspended from a frame, attached to the roof beams above at a height of approximately 4m from the floor. It is considered appropriate to have the speaker cabinets produced in white (rather than black as existing).

Cables would be positioned along the curved roof beams, toward the North aisle where it will follow the line of existing cables to the control area at the rear of the nave.



Section 4. Why do you need it and why do you need it now?

The sound quality of the existing system is far from ideal; the system was installed some 15 years ago and is unreliable.

We are keen to provide a reliable sound system that is configured appropriately with our updated amplifiers and new sound desk. One feature of the new configuration will be the ability to turn off the speaker in a transept, to avoid interference with microphones.

Section 5. Justification.

The existing speakers need to be replaced, this proposal maintains a balance of practical sound design along with being as unobtrusive as reasonably possible.



Appendix 1 – Detail of Speaker Positions

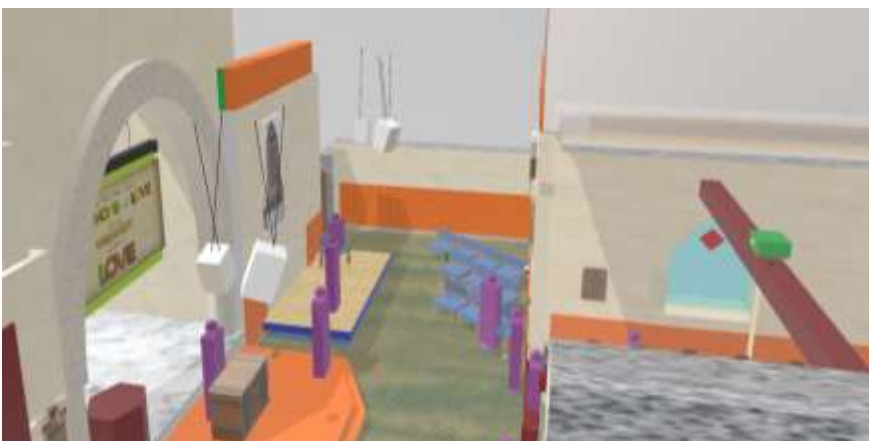


Speakers will be suspended in pairs; one will be directed to the nave, the other will point into a transept.

This design is thought to be the best solution in terms of:

- Distribution of load on the roof beams.
- Minimise visual impact. Speakers in line with walls of the nave to minimise visual intrusion of chancel arch).
- Reasonable sound distribution in all areas of the congregation.

Detail of the two pairs of suspended speakers.



Appendix 2 – Speaker Mount / Fixings

